IN THE CLAIMS

1-17.   (canceled)

18.   (currently amended) An information transmission method, comprising:

in a network including a first information processing apparatus, a second information processing apparatus, and a server including an information distribution and administration apparatus other than the first and second processing apparatuses, a first link connecting the first information processing apparatus within the network, and a second link connecting the second information processing apparatus within the network, such that communications between the first and second processing apparatuses are transmitted over at least the first and second links and are subject to administration by the server,

a first information processing process comprising the steps of capturing input speech information, changing the input speech information to character data, and, under administration of the server, sending the character data by the first information processing apparatus to a the network; and

a second information processing process comprising the steps of, under administration of the server, receiving the character data from via the network by the second information processing apparatus, generating second speech information from the received character data, outputting the received character data, and using the second speech information to output speech.

19.   (canceled)

20.   (new) An information transmitting and receiving system, comprising:

a network including a first information processing apparatus, a second information processing apparatus, and a server including an information distribution and

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administration apparatus other than the first and second information processing apparatuses;

a first link connecting the first information processing apparatus within the network and a second link connecting the second information processing apparatus within the network such that communications between the first and second processing apparatuses are transmitted over at least the first and second links and are subject to administration by the server;

the first information processing apparatus being operable to capture input speech information, change the input speech information to character data, and, under administration of the server, send the character data to the network; and

the second information processing apparatus being operable, under administration of the server, to receive the character data from the network, generate second speech information from the received character data, output the received character data, and use the second speech information to output speech.

21. (new) A method of processing speech information of a speaker, comprising:

accessing voiceprint information;

comparing speech information obtained for an utterance of a speaker to the voiceprint information to identify a characteristic of the speaker, the characteristic being one or more of the speaker's gender, height, weight, age, occupation, hobbies, or preferences;

generating a control command in accordance with the identified characteristic of the speaker;

converting the speech information to character data; and

subjecting the character data to predetermined processing in accordance with the control command to form

processed character data, such that the characteristic of the speaker is identifiable from the processed character data.

22.   (new) The method of processing speech information as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:

outputting the processed character data, such that the characteristic of the speaker is identifiable from the outputted character data.

23.   (new) The method of processing speech information as claimed in claim 21, wherein

the predetermined processing causes a character form of the processed character data to vary from the character data.

24.   (new) The method of processing speech information as claimed in claim 21, wherein

the predetermined processing generates a control code for the processed character data.

25.   (new) The method of processing speech information as claimed in claim 24, further comprising:

sending the processed character data to a network.

26.   (new) An apparatus for processing speech information of a speaker, comprising:

a control signal generator operable to identify a characteristic of a speaker by comparing speech information obtained for an utterance of the speaker with voiceprint information, the characteristic being one or more of the speaker's gender, height, weight, age, occupation, hobbies, or preferences, and to generate a control command based upon the characteristic; and

a converter operable to convert the speech information to character data using predetermined processing in accordance with the control command, such that the

characteristic of the speaker is identifiable from the character data.

27. (new) A computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon a program for processing speech information, the program being executable by a computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

accessing voiceprint information;

comparing speech information obtained for an utterance of a speaker to the voiceprint information to identify a characteristic of the speaker, the characteristic being one or more of the speaker's gender, height, weight, age, occupation, hobbies, or preferences;

generating a control command in accordance with the identified characteristic of the speaker;

converting the speech information to character data; and

subjecting the character data to predetermined processing in accordance with the control command to form processed character data, such that the characteristic of the speaker is identifiable from the processed character data.

28. (new) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 27, wherein the method further comprises:

outputting the processed character data, such that the characteristic of the speaker is identifiable from the outputted character data.

29. (new) A computer operable to process speech information, the computer comprising:

processing apparatus; and

a program including instructions, the instructions being executable by the processing apparatus to perform a method, the method including:

accessing voiceprint information;

comparing speech information obtained for an utterance of a speaker to the voiceprint information to identify a characteristic of the speaker, the characteristic being one or more of the speaker's gender, height, weight, age, occupation, hobbies, or preferences;

generating a control command in accordance with the identified characteristic of the speaker;

converting the speech information to character data; and

subjecting the character data to predetermined processing in accordance with the control command to form processed character data, such that the characteristic of the speaker is identifiable from the processed character data.

30. (new) The computer as claimed in claim 29, wherein the method further comprises:

outputting the processed character data, such that the characteristic of the speaker is identifiable from the outputted character data.